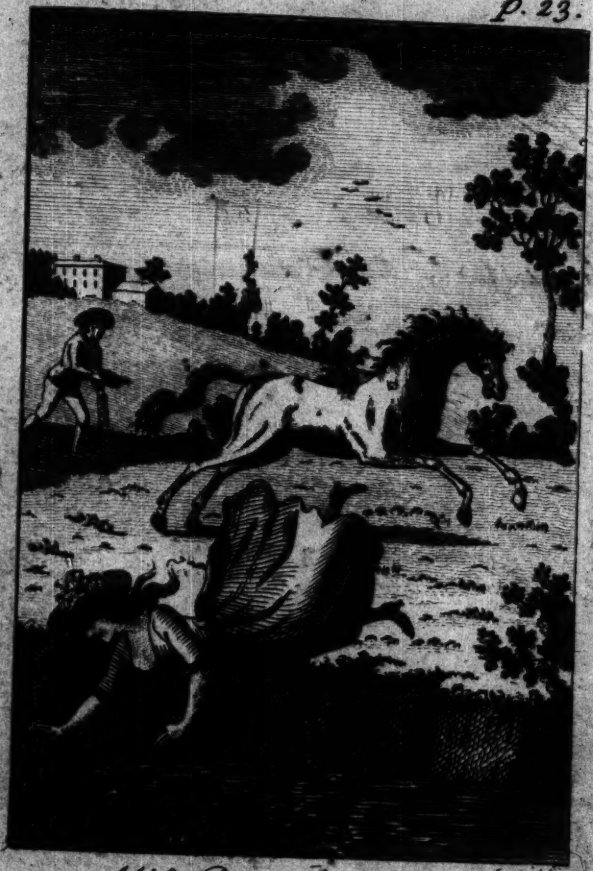
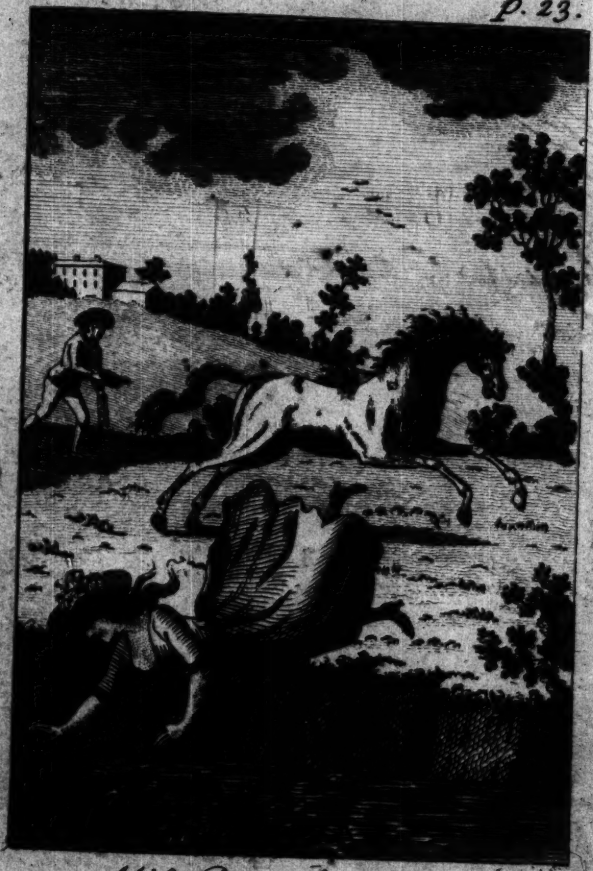


Miss Patty thrown from her Horse.



Miss Patty thrown from her Horse.

ANECDOTES

OF A

LITTLE FAMILY,

INTERSPERSED WITH

FABLES, STORIES, and ALLEGORIES,

ILLUSTRATED WITH

SUITABLE MORALS

FOR

Children of different Ages, and both Sexes;

EMBELLISHED WITH CUTS.

LONDON:

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BRITISH MUSEUM

PREFACE.

THE following Sheets are meant (as the Title imports) to be devoted to the Service of Youth, as well as to contribute to their Relaxation and Amuſement.

The Design of the Work is simple, as it is calculated to operate in opening the Mind, and preparing it for other Studies, and Matters of greater Moment.

As such, it may be considered in the Light of an Assistant to the earlier Part of a School Education, and the Author hopes it will not be found inadequate to the Purpose.

The

The Fables and Allegories preſented in this Little Book, are fabricated in ſuch a Manner as to convey eaſy Morals, whilſt the Drift of them is rendered the more clear by their generally and naturally ariſing from Circumſtances relative to the Perſons to whom they are occaſionally repreſented as being addreſſed.

The young Folks will only have to conſider that when Beaſts,

Birds,

Birds, &c. are introduced, diſcourſing or reaſoning, this is nothing more than the Cuſtom of Fable, and as ſuch it muſt be only underſtood as the Means of bringing forward, in a pleaſing Manner, what is deſigned to engage their Attention.

As the main End of every Work of this Nature is beſt anſwered by ſhort Leſſons of Inſtruction, and Narrations rather

conciſe than ſpun out to any great Length, theſe are Circumſtances that have not paſſed unnoticed. With Regard to the Reſt, it is hoped that the whole of the Little Syſtem has been conducted in ſuch a Manner as to anſwer the principal Deſign, as well as to diſplay the good Intentions of the Public's

Moſt obedient ſervant,

THE AUTHOR.

ANECDOTES OF A LITTLE FAMILY.

CHAP. I.

IN the neighbourhood of a ſmall village, not many miles from London, where they generally paſſed a few months in the winter, lived Mr. Selwyn and his lady, who were very careful in bringing up their ſon and daughter, as alſo a nephew,

a nephew, whom his dying father had left to their charge.

Not ſatisfied with what the children might learn at a common ſchool, ſuch as at firſt could only ſuit their tender years, theſe worthy people did not merely truſt them to ſervants and the nurſery, but always watched over them with careful eyes; while Harry, his ſiſter Eliza, and their couſin Jaſper appeared ſo good and obedient, as to deſerve their kindneſs, ſetting aſide ſome little childiſh follies, ſuch as my young readers muſt know

few

few of them can ſay they are entirely free from.

Harry, the eldeſt of the three, was not more than ſeven years old, when he ſhewed a good underſtanding, and beſides was very tractable; his ſiſter was lively and good-natured, and Jaſper behaved well in general, and had a good genius, though he was often careleſs as to learning, and ſometimes peeviſh and fretful, which you know becomes nobody, and leaſt of all little boys and girls; however he was not ſullen nor obſtinate, nor could

he

he, in any reſpect, be called a dunce.

When leiſure from exerciſes proper for the children, as well as their ſchool time permitted, Mrs. Selwyn uſed to take them to her cloſet, where ſhe would give them cakes and little preſents, as ſhe judged they deſerved; and took a delight in talking to them, hearing what they had to ſay, and often reading, or telling them little ſtories and fables; and this ſhe did in ſuch a manner as made their attendance ſeem not at all a taſk, for they never were more pleaſed than

than when they had ſuch indulgence. At theſe times Harry and Eliza concealed nothing from their mamma, and Jaſper very properly thought he could not do too much in return for his aunt's kindneſs.

The converſations which paſſed, and the ſtories and fables told on theſe occaſions, will be the ſubject of this little work.—We ſhall begin with an anecdote, occaſioned by a matter in which Miſs Eliza was chiefly concerned.

It happened one ſummer afternoon that a fly, which had long

been amuſing himſelf on the ſlippery edge of a ſmall china baſon, almoſt full of cream, and would certainly have loſt his life for his boldneſs, if Eliza had not delivered him.—She took the inſect on her finger, letting him recover there, and dry his wings, till he was in a condition to fly away. Harry was much pleaſed with his ſiſter, becauſe, he ſaid, this ſhewed her good nature, though he could not help obſerving he thought Eliza took too much pains on ſuch a trifling occaſion. As to Jaſper, he laughed at the matter, ſaid "the *happy fly* was a little *thief*, and more time had been ſpent in ſaving him than

than even twenty *pretty butterflies* were worth."

As it happened that Mrs. Selwyn overheard part of what was ſaid (though ſhe had not liſtened on purpoſe) ſhe thought proper to make ſome obſervations. This good lady began with praiſing the behaviour of Eliza; then turning to Jaſper—"I think, ſaid ſhe, my dear, you ſeemed rather to find fault with your couſin." At his aunt's deſire he repeated what he had ſaid.—On this ſhe obſerved to him, that the fly was quite harmleſs, and all he could eat or drink was too little to be miſſed.

"But as to the *butterflies* you talked of, Jaſper (ſaid ſhe) they are at firſt caterpillars, and really do much harm to the fruits of the earth. After all they are only valued when butterflies, for their pretty colours; and their beauty, as is too often the caſe, is not only uſeleſs but hurtful to them; for people kill them wantonly, in order to ſtick them, as you often ſee, upon papers. But tell me truly, what would you have done with the fly?" He anſwered, he would either have let it drown itſelf; or, if he thought it might be diſagreeable in the cream he would have killed it directly.

"Would you (cried Mrs. Selwyn) how *good natured* that muſt be! But let me tell you a ſtory."

All the children being attentive, the lady related the following tale, which may be worth your hearing:—

A great while ago their lived in the Indies, an old man, with white locks, and a grey beard, who was very good, and very learned. It was alſo ſaid, by every body who knew him, that he underſtood what birds, beaſts, and even inſects had

to ſay to one another, as report ſays all theſe could talk at that time.

As he was one day walking out with Selim, a young lad, who by his parents was put under his care, the youth careleſsly treading on an ant-hill, (ſuch as I ſuppoſe you have ſeen in the country) ſome of them came out and ſtung him, on which he deſtroyed two or three of them, and complained bitterly. "You have no right to find fault, ſaid Mirza, the hermit, and I will prove it, if you will but do as I deſire you." He then dropped a little of ſomething he had in a phial, into Selim's

Selim's ear, and then directed him to crouch to the ground, juſt where he had trod before.—When he did ſo, he obſerved the ants in a great buſtle, and much diſturbance.—"Oh! what a misfortune (ſaid one) I have loſt my father by it.—My brother is killed, and my houſe quite deſtroyed," (ſaid another).—"All our labours to make our city ſtrong are ſpoiled in a moment, though they have coſt us ſo much pains," (cried a third).—In ſhort, there was nothing but mourning and complaining, ſome burying their dead, whilſt others were uſing all their ſmall ſtrength to repair their

dwellings.

dwellings.—"What do you think now?" (demanded the old man).—"I think I have done miſchief enough (anſwered Selim) to theſe induſtrious little folks. I do not wonder at their anger, and I ſhall tread more carefully for the future."

THE ants are remarkably buſy and induſtrious, and are ſet as a pattern for ſluggards to follow; and thoſe hillocks which ſo often even eſcape your notice, are their dwellings, formed with the greateſt care and

and exactneſs; and in ſome countries the little creatures raiſe them in a manner ſo curious, as could not be improved by the greateſt artiſt; building their cells one upon another, broad at the bottom and narrow at the top, with ſuch great ſtrength that a good deal of force muſt be uſed to deſtroy them. (However, my dear, I ſuppoſe, whenever you have chanced to ſee the ants or piſmires, you have thought them very ugly, naſty, and miſchievous animals, yet they only ſting people when they are made angry, or uſe their ſtings againſt other inſects that are their enemies; and ugly as they

may

may appear in our eyes, they are made in as exact proportion, though not ſo full of pretty colours, as the butterflies that you ſeem to admire. Beſides all this, the ants lay up ſtore for bad weather, and the winter ſeaſon; and this is what no butterflies are ever known to do. You ſhould not therefore be cruel to any thing, nor be haſty in calling things good or bad, pretty or ugly, at firſt ſight; which leſſon I hope you will remember in future; as alſo that every creature has its uſe, becauſe God never made any thing in vain.

CHAP.

CHAP. II.

On Falſities. April Fools, and ſome Conſequences of making them.

MRS. Selwyn had often put the children in mind of the difference between fables and real hiſtories; to let them know that the tales of birds, fiſhes, inſects, and trees ſpeaking, were only made for the ſake of a moral, as we have already obſerved; and continually inſtructed them to value the truth in what they ſaid above all things.—"It is as mean as it is wicked (ſaid ſhe

ſhe) to tell a lie. If you are found out in it, commonly it is puniſhed one way or another. And beſides it is a true ſaying, even when a known liar ſpeaks truth, who ſhall believe him.

But (ſaid Jaſper) I think ſome fibs are told in jeſt, and we mean no harm.—Pray, is that naughty?—

It can never be *good*, (replied the lady) and for what reaſon is it generally done?

Only for a laugh Madam, as indeed I have heard ſome told this morning.—

" Yet

Yet even a *laugh*, in itſelf innocent, may be naughty in ſome caſes, and never can be otherwiſe when it is occaſioned by a falſity told with intent to deceive. But I underſtand what you mean—you or your ſchoolfellows have been making fools to-day.

" O yes, Aunt! cried Jaſper, eagerly" and then he told ſome of the great feats done by the little folks on the occaſion.

" After all, anſwered Mrs. Selwyn, this is but ſilly, as it is unworthy.—However the cuſtom firſt

prevailed, it can deſerve no praiſe. —Falſities muſt be told, and ill will is often got by the bargain."

"But mamma, (interrupted Eliza) when I ſpoke ſomething againſt this, I was told by maſter Sammy Sprightly that it was uſeful, in order to make folks learn to keep their wits about them."

Mrs. Selwyn replied "It is well my dear, for thoſe that can do ſo; but ſurely there are other and better ways than theſe of doing that where it is neceſſary. Beſides all are not born to be ſo ſharp as maſter

Sprightly may be.—And *he is a fool that makes a fool*, is no bad ſaying. Nothing but wickedneſs and obſtinate folly deſerve ſcorn; and even folly it is more generous to pity; ſo that no laugh ought to be commended but what is the effect of good humour, and even then it ſhould be kept within the bounds of moderation.

" I remember where I myſelf went to ſchool, when about your age, the ſame ſilly cuſtom prevailed, and the girls were very fond of it. Among the reſt there was one of theſe young ladies that was reckoned ſo clever at this ſort of ſport, that

ſhe was often called, The Fool-Maker. It was plain that ſhe was not much beloved by any body, and ſuch ſort of wit as makes one diſliked, is of no real value.

" Miſs Patty, as it fell out, one April day, particularly pitched on a very ſerious young lady, not ſo old as herſelf, to play the uſual trick upon; for ſhe thought Kitty Gentle would ſoon fall into a ſnare that ſhe was not aware of. And this was the way in which the fool-maker proceeded. She was at the pains to tell a downright untruth, in order to perſuade the other that ſomebody from

from her relations had ſent for her to a farm houſe, about three quarters of a mile off, and ſhe got leave from her ſchool miſtreſs to go thither, as indeed ſhe had before done on ſuch occaſions; but this was only to ſend her on an empty errand in order to laugh at her—but it proved otherwiſe.

A little after ſhe was gone, the miſtreſs, who had been too much engaged at home, on her own affairs, to think of ſuch a deceit, recollected the day, and examining into the buſineſs, found who was at the bottom of it. Miſs Patty, be-

ing ſtrictly queſtioned, confeſſed, and was ordered to ſet off immediately, and bring her ſchoolfellow back, on pain of a much ſeverer puniſhment.—She durſt not diſobey, and ſet out accordingly; but as ſhe had never been at the place, (the way to which lay acroſs ſome fields) ſhe miſtook the path, and wandered far out of the road, where there was not any one to aſk, and ſo no hope of her being ſet right. Thus ſhe proceeded, not convinced of her miſtake, but wondering, as well ſhe might, at the length of the way till ſhe came to a rivulet, which, as ſhe could not paſs, ſhe was ſo impatient

tient that ſhe ſat down and cried, from mere vexation.

" But as ſhe knew crying could not do any good, and was pretty certain, by this time, that ſhe muſt have been miſtaken in the direction. Miſs Patty, after having thus given way to her ill temper, aroſe again, reſolved to go back as ſhe came, and ſet of for that purpoſe; but as ſhe paſſed along a field, a horſe that was very wild, galloping about, as ſhe was afraid to be run over, ſhe haſtened from him, but in ſo heedleſs a manner, that ſhe preſently fell into a ditch; and it is moſt likely that

ſhe

ſhe would have been ſuffocated there, had not a man, that was ſent to catch the horſe, taken her out, and carried her all over mire and filth as ſhe was, to a neighbouring farm-houſe, where the people cleaned her as well as they could, and put her into bed, which ſhe was not able to leave for near a week; and this with many reprimands from her governeſs and parents, and the ſneers of her companions, was all ſhe got by fool-making.—But Miſs Kitty, whom ſhe had ſent in jeſt on a fool's errand, as ſhe ſuppoſed, had ſcarcely reſted herſelf at the place to which ſhe went, before a meſſage came from

from her friends in earneſt, as ſhe was ſent for home on account of her ſiſter's wedding. Here ſhe remained ſome days, and at her return was received with pleaſure.—As for Miſs Patty ſhe was ſo much mortified, that, for a long time, ſhe was almoſt aſhamed to ſhow her face; and ſhe never endeavoured to make fools any more, after this unlucky adventure."

This ſtory well applied, and told at a proper ſeaſon, had a good effect on the minds of the children; and Jaſper was ready to confeſs that Miſs

Patty

Patty only met with her deserts, though it happened by accident, as above related.

CHAP.

CHAP. III.

On Envy, with a Fable applicable to the Occaſion.

THERE was ſcarcely any thing which Mrs. Selwyn took ſo much care to guard againſt in children, as a diſpoſition to envy, which whatever ſome may pretend to think, is really very different from proper emulation.

Indeed, this was a ſubject which the good lady frequently uſed to bring

bring into diſcourſe, and managed it in ſuch a manner as that thoſe who heard her might profit by the obſervations ſhe made, which ſhe well knew how to ſuit to their capacity.

One afternoon in particular, ſhe took occaſion to remark on the ſpiteful behaviour of two or three naughty boys, that were always quarrelling with a ſchool-fellow of theirs, whoſe name was Sammy Steady, and ſeemed to have no reaſon for this, but becauſe he was careſſed for minding his learning better, and for his good manners.

But

But (ſaid Maſter Jaſper) one day, if you would give me leave Madam, I ſhould like to aſk you what I muſt do when I ſee my ſchoolfellows more in favour than I am—can I love them for that?—I don't think they would like me for the ſame thing.

You ſhould conſider (anſwered Mrs. Selwyn) whether ſuch ſchoolfellows as you ſpeak of are not favoured for their deſerts. I believe that is generally the caſe; if ſo, how wicked muſt it be for you to hate, diſlike, or envy them. You ſhould endeavour, by all means, to

equally deſerving, if you can; if not, never think of wiſhing them any harm, or trying to make them ſeem leſs in peoples eyes; for, be aſſured, this will always turn out to your own ſhame in the end. And even, if there does not ſeem to be any reaſon for the favour, ſtill your beſt way will be to deſerve as much, and thus to ſhame the favourite, if really undeſerving.—— Whatever you may think, all elſe comes of envy.—Will you hear a ſtory upon the ſubject?

All

All being ſilent, Mrs. Selwyn thus proceeded :—

" A gentleman once had a favourite dog, an old ſervant, to which he ſhewed ſuch great kindneſs, as much offended a monkey that he had lately received as a preſent from the Eaſt Indies. This monkey having entertained his maſter by his tricks, and particularly during a fit of ſickneſs, thought to have the firſt place in his liking; and indeed he had his reward ſo far as he deſerved it. But this did not content him; for obſerving afterwards the gentleman's fondneſs for

his dog, he grew jealous, and ſuppoſed himſelf very ill-uſed, merely becauſe he had not the preference in all things.—By every way in his power he endeavoured to injure the greyhound, but theſe ways were private.—He would ſteal or break things in ſuch a manner as that it ſhould ſeem poor Ponto had done the miſchief; he would continually provoke his rival, and then run chattering and ſcreaming, though not hurt, to his maſter, in order to make him angry with the innocent dog.

"Failing in this, the monkey's hatred was ſo far increaſed, that nothing could

could ſatisfy him but the deſtruction of the dog, that all this time had not willingly given him the leaſt offence, nor was at all aware of his malicious intentions.

" It ſoon happened that what he thought a favourable opportunity offered of ſatisfying his ſpite and undeſerved revenge; principles, which it is a ſad thing to obſerve prevailing amongſt any on whom heaven has ſtamped its own image, by creating them in the human form.

"Pug watched a time, when ſuppoſing himſelf not to be ſeen by any body, he ſtole into the pantry, the door then by chance being open, and Ponto very innocently lying aſleep before it. The miſchievous creature, with ſome difficulty, looſened a haunch of veniſon, which was hanging there, mangled and dragged it in the dirt, though he did not find himſelf at all inclined to eat any of it. From thence taking his way into the yard, where there was a pretty kitten, much liked by his miſtreſs, ſtill not perceiving any body near, he worried her as much as he could; and, when he

he got hold of poor puſs, griped her ſo faſt by the throat with his paws as to hinder farther mewing, thus cruelly almoſt choaking the creature, to help his deſign, and to prevent diſcovery.

"So far the monkey had the appearance of ſucceeding, and he had alſo the wicked pleaſure of finding poor Ponto accuſed of both theſe pieces of miſchief. The dog indeed, having awaked, was gone away, but a hearty beating was promiſed him, and even a hanging threatened, for thoſe tricks which he had never done.

"But

" But this malicious ſatisfaction did not laſt long; for beſides that, it ſeemed very unlikely, on conſideration, that Ponto ſhould have taken the uncommon pains neceſſary for him to get at the meat, and then drag it about, without even ſo much as taſting it; an unexpected witneſs appeared againſt the guilty party. One of the maid-ſervants had obſerved how he uſed the cat, from a window, and beſides the ſame perſon had a little before ſeen pug ſkipping out of the pantry, where ſhe then took no notice of him, while Ponto ſtill lay aſleep near the door, as I already told you.

Theſe

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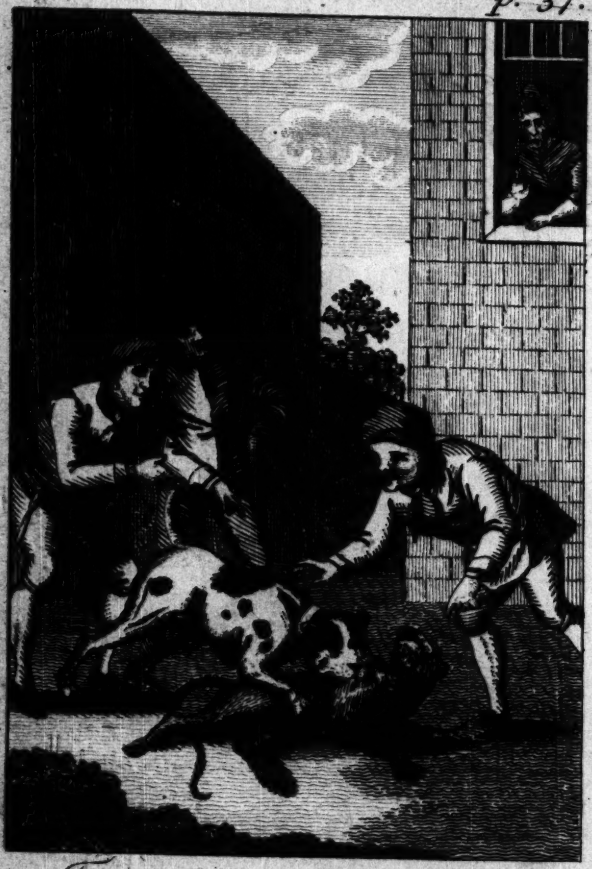

The envious Monkey torn to pieces, by a Bull Dog.

Theſe matters being thus cleared up, pug was juſtly accuſed and condemned; when finding himſelf purſued, and fearing the worſt, he ran away. But as the proverb ſays, "Harm watch, harm catch." As he was traverſing the ſtreets, not daring to return, nor knowing where to find either food or ſhelter, a bull dog was ſet upon him, by ſome miſchievous folks; and this creature ſoon revenged Ponto's cauſe, by worrying pug to death in a few minutes."

Thus

Thus the monkey perished by one of the ſame ſpecies that he had taken ſo much pains to injure; and the ſtory furniſhes an example of the unpitied fate of thoſe who indulge themſelves in habits of envy, malice, and fraudful and uncharitable dealings.

CHAP.

CHAP. IV.

Adventures at a Fair, and the Conſequences that followed. The ill Effects of Fears that are vain and groundleſs.

IN proportion as the children increaſed in years, it was judged proper in theſe converſations, to advance, by calling their attention, by juſt degrees, to objects rather higher than thoſe with which at firſt they

they had been entertained as moſt ſuitable to their tender years. Mrs. Selwyn likewiſe, though capable of this taſk, yet choſe to leave it now to her huſband, except in ſome particulars, where ſhe thought ſhe could inſtruct Eliza in a manner peculiarly proper to her ſex; and in both theſe caſes it ſeemed neceſſary that poetry, which fixes morals and maxims on the minds of moſt young people, ſhould now and then be admitted. "I do not want to make my ſon a poet, (ſaid Mr. Selwyn) but perhaps it may not be amiſs to give him ſome little acquaintance with verſe, if it were only for the ſake of keeping

ing pace with the education I deſign him."—"Neither do I, (anſwered the lady) entertain a thought of making Eliza a poeteſs; but as this is a pleaſing way of communicating knowledge, ſo far it may be uſeful as well as amuſing.—An example or two, however, they deemed to be ſufficient, and purſued their plan according to the line intended, at every proper opportunity.

IN the mean time it was pleaſing to obſerve that young Jaſper every day grew more attached to Charles,

whoſe diſpoſition was ſuch as made him a fit companion for thoſe that wiſhed, like himſelf, to attend with pleaſure to leſſons of improvement, while his ſerious manners led him, at proper times, to check the too eager temper of his couſin.

They were frequent companions in their little excurſions for amuſement. —On one of theſe, the young gentlemen having permiſſion to go to a neighbouring fair, which was the project of Jaſper, they met with two of their own age, who took pains to join their company. Harry appeared rather ſhy of the offer, but Jaſper

was

was eager to accept it, and the other agreed becauſe he was not fond of contradiction, and did not chuſe to be thought ill-natured. So away they went together, and began to be as merry as young folks generally are at ſuch places of diverſion. After viſiting the booths, and buying ſuch little matters as they fancied at the fair, their new companions propoſed going yet farther, though it was already evening. Harry, who had indeed come abroad chiefly in compliance with his couſin, made many objections to this propoſal, and could not help obſerving, that he

thought both himſelf and Jaſper now too old to be carried away by every trifle, though they had come to the fair out of curioſity, where he obſerved ſome older than themſelves to appear much diverted. But his couſin was determined to go at all events, not regarding their engagement to return at a certain hour, which in ſuch a caſe, would ſcarcely be poſſible, and Harry was more than once inclined to leave them all three together; but Jaſper repreſenting how ungenerous that would be, the other, at laſt, conſented to go with them, though not without ſome reluctance.

As

As they were on their way, however, Harry and his couſin were ſurpriſed to find that they were followed by ſome gentlemen, to eſcape from whom their companions endeavoured, but in vain. Harry ſtood ſtill, perſuading his kinſman to do the ſame, and the purſuers paſſed by them, but ſoon overtook the others, whom they took back, much againſt their will, with them. It appeared that theſe were very bad lads, who had not been at ſchool for three days, and had not only played truant, but even robbed orchards, and done many other miſchievous tricks, for which they deſerved correction,

beſides having alarmed their parents for their ſafety—and all this, though the youngeſt of them was not leſs than thirteen years of age. As the gentlemen returned, they obſerved the two couſins, and enquired who they were, when one of them, the father of the youngeſt truant, declared that he knew Mr. Selwyn very well, and added, he was ſurpriſed to find the ſon and nephew of his friend, young folks of whom he had heard a very good character, in ſuch a ſituation; as he did not doubt within himſelf, but they had been guilty of the ſame miſchievous conduct.

Both

Both Jaſper and Harry were abaſhed at this remark. The latter, however, made a ſlight excuſe, not being willing to accuſe any body elſe. So they took leave of the gentlemen, giving aſſurances that they were about to return home, which they prepared to do accordingly. But their vexation did not end here; for as they had entirely followed the guidance of their former companions, without obſerving the road, they found themſelves much at a loſs, and as night now came on, without their chancing to meet any body, they found themſelves bewildered; ſo that Jaſper began

gan to think of the ſtory of Patty; but Harry, though he was much concerned, was too generous to reproach his couſin, who ſo juſtly deſerved rebuke. On the contrary, he endeavoured to encourage him. "We have done wrong (ſaid he) and unluckily we feel the inconvenience; but we are not infants, and if ſomewhat out of our road, we may yet hope for the beſt, and be thankful that we are not in a deſert, nor in a ſtrange country."

Thus they paſſed on; Maſter Selwyn, who had by this time got ſome idea of the heavenly bodies, endeavoured

voured to direct his course by the moon, then newly risen; but this help soon failed him, as the skies were covered with clouds; and not long afterwards, they found themselves on the edge of a common.

It was now that Jasper, who, notwithstanding his volatile temper, was rather timorous, began to show his fears. As they advanced, he trembled, and his cousin perceiving it, observed, that as he trusted there was no danger, so it must be silly to be afraid, when there was no cause for fear, and that all they had to dread seemed then to be the want of a night's lodging;

lodging; adding, "That he really believed, they were not then at any very great diſtance from home, though in a track with which they were not acquainted."

Juſt as he had done ſpeaking, his couſin diſcovered ſomething white at a diſtance; on which he trembled more than before.—His knees knocked together, and he cried out "See there, it comes in white over the common."—It came, indeed, and happily for the young gentlemen; for it was a chaiſe, painted white, and drawn by two horſes of the ſame colour. A clergyman, that

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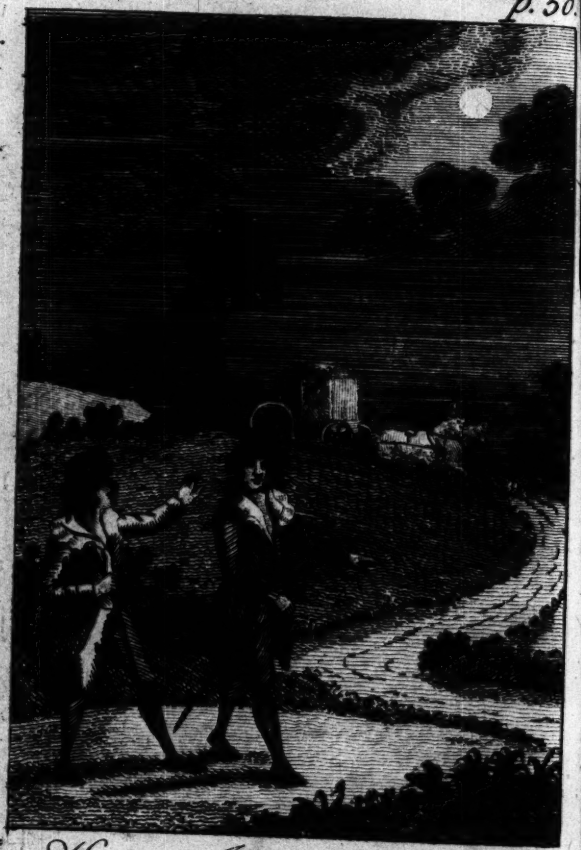

Harry & Jasper be-nighted, meet a Post-Chaise.

that was in the carriage, ſtopped, on obſerving theſe wanderers, and Harry having informed him that they had loſt their way, and mentioning the place where they lived, he ſaid he was happy to be able to convey them home, as his road lay through the village, which was about three miles diſtant.

A ſhort time ſerved to bring them to their own door, where Mr. and Mrs. Selwyn were waiting for them in anxious expectation. The good clergyman was prevailed on to ſtep in, and take a ſhort refreſhment, during which time he heard a ſhort account

count of the two kinſmen's adven-tures, the adventures of a day which had like to have ended ſo diſa-greeably.

CHAP.

CHAP. V.

Ill Effects of the want of Steadineſs.—Adventures of the Princes of Golconda.

A GENTLE reproof was all that Mr. Selwyn thought neceſſary, when the weary travellers came home. The next morning, however, he took occaſion to enlarge on the ſubject, though not with roughneſs or ſeverity. The conduct of Jaſper was moſt blamed,

as it deſerved; yet as Harry was his elder, he was juſtly told how imprudent it was for him to give way; and both were put in mind how faulty it was to make ſuch a ſudden acquaintance.

"I do not commend what is juſtly called obſtinacy, continued Mr. Selwyn, but it is always blameable to ſuffer ourſelves to be led by the perſuaſion of others, into errors which our own judgment muſt condem. This, Harry, your underſtanding ſhould teach you, as you have early given proofs of

of it, and you know it has been always foſtered and encouraged. But I ſhall make no farther remarks of this kind, except that the fears of Jaſper were ſilly, who ought to know that there is no greater danger in the night, than in the day time, as we are equally under the care of that kind Providence who always protects the good. I ſhall only conclude with a ſtory that may be worth attention."

In old times there reigned in Golconda, in the Eaſt, before that kingdom was ſubject to the Mogul, a monarch who governed with juſtice

and mercy, as he always had the good of his ſubjects at heart. Being deſirous that they ſhould be as well governed after his death as they had been during his life, he ſpared not any pains to have his children tutored in ſuch a manner as he concluded would beſt anſwer ſo good a purpoſe.—He had two ſons that were twins, both of whom equally ſhared his affections. It was therefore his wiſh that he who was the worthier, or more able to rule, ſhould ſucceed him. Each of theſe was of a good diſpoſition; but the temper of both was not alike, and indeed more different than at firſt was ſuppoſed either

ther by the King or the people. Selim was generous, juſt, and good; he was alſo firm and conſtant, which at times, in ſome meaſure, gave him more the appearance of ſullenneſs than there was of the reality. Mirvan, his brother, was likewiſe a youth of good inclinations, liberal, free, and without reſerve. While theſe two had equal claims, they yet lived together, in praiſe-worthy, and brotherly love. When their King drew near his end, being unable to give a determination ſatisfactory to himſelf, he ſubmitted the matter to his nobles, and they likewiſe took the opinion of an aſſembly

of the people. The conſequence was, that after much conſideration, Mirvan was choſen, and that was chiefly on account of the favor he had won with the people, who admired his free and lively temper; and at his father's death he was accordingly proclaimed King of Golconda.

For more than ſix months he reigned, beloved by his ſubjects, and happy in himſelf. But about that time, there being ſome danger of an invaſion, he diſcharged an old Lord, who had been the former King's beſt friend and ſervant, to make room for one Heli, a younger man, that he ſuppoſed

ſuppoſed more active and fit to manage the buſineſs, eſpecially in caſe of a war. In the mean time Selim was abſent, travelling in foreign countries for improvement.

As ſoon as Heli had got into power, he tried, by flattering ways, to ſecure his maſter's favour, and then began to change a great number of his truſty ſervants. At firſt, indeed, theſe proceedings did not pleaſe Mirvan; but he ſuffered himſelf to be *perſuaded* to approve them. The nobles were not ſatisfied, but the people appeared contented, be-

cauſe

cauſe they loved their prince, and thus Heli was not interrupted.

War was now declared, and this man recommended a general, who, being ſent againſt the enemy, returned back defeated, becauſe, by his ignorance, he had ſuffered his army to be ſurrounded. This, indeed, cauſed ſome complainings; yet Heli kept his ground; for though the King was merely diſpleaſed at firſt, and diſappointed, yet he ſuffered himſelf to be *perſuaded* that the misfortune was not owing to the general, Heli had recommended, but the next in command; who was unjuſtly

juſtly blamed, and turned off for the other's blunder. As the miniſter had by this time got himſelf ſome enemies, he contrived to have ſome of them accuſed of treaſon. Mirvan had always believed them to be as good ſubjects, as they really were; but now, though he did not go ſo far as to put them to death, yet he was prevailed on to diſgrace and confine them.

The enemy now advancing, another army was raiſed. The King's good ſenſe ought to have led him to chuſe a new general, but he continued the old one to pleaſe Heli; and

the

the troops were again defeated, the commander killed, and the conquerors came on to beſiege the capital city. The people now murmured much, and Mirvan knew it. He only complained to Heli, whom he ſhould have puniſhed; while that artful and wicked man *perſuaded* him that his brother, though abſent, had a party in the city, who had held a correſpondence with the enemy, and had thus occaſioned theſe misfortunes. On this account, ſeveral, whom he diſliked, were named, and they were put in priſon, and condemned to die, unleſs they would diſcover a plot, of which they knew

knew nothing, becauſe there was none This ſo much provoked the nobles and the people, that they would have roſe in open rebellion, but that they had no other Prince with them to ſet up, and the conquering army was come almoſt to their gates. It was now that Mirvan aſked Heli in an angry manner, What was to be done? and Heli adviſed him to go out himſelf and fight the enemy. Though the city was ſtrong, and his ſoldiers were few and much diſheartened, yet this again the King was *perſuaded* to agree to, though contrary to his own judgment. As ſoon as he was gone, the gates were

ſhut

ſhut againſt him; he was therefore obliged to fight, though almoſt certain of being defeated. The armies had not engaged an hour, when that of Golconda was juſt on the point of being routed. But at that inſtant there appeared a number of freſh troops, whoſe commander none knew, that ſuddenly attacked the conquerors, and at laſt ſecured the victory to the Golcondians, who, to their ſurpriſe, found that the chief who had thus relieved them, was Selim. He had heard of the danger of his country, and had come without any view of ambition or intereſt to its aſſiſtance. When the battle was over

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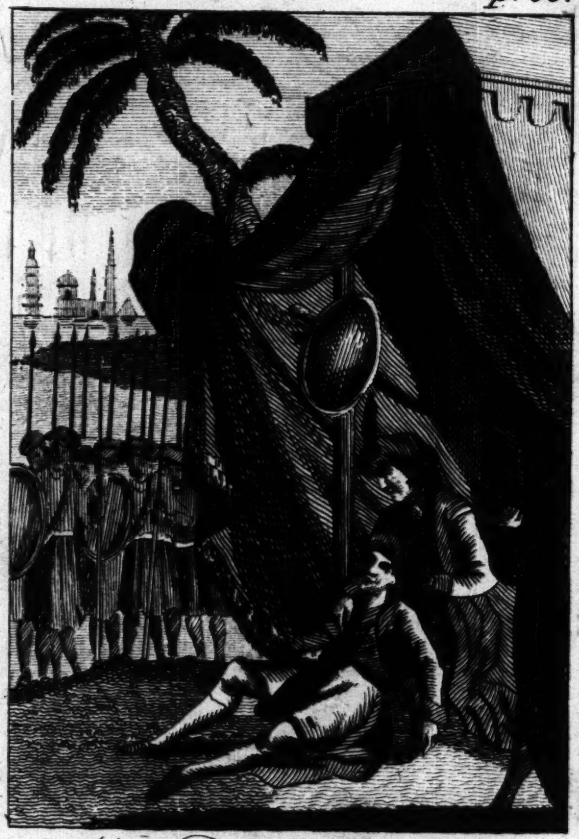

Mirvan, King of Golconda, expiring in his Brother's arms.

over, he haſtened to ſee his brother, but found him mortally wounded, ſo that he died in his arms, to the great grief of this young prince, to whom he was willing to leave the crown he himſelf had not been able to wear. On the approach of the conqueror, with his army, the gates of the city were opened, all being happy at the ſight of Selim. Heli, who had ordered them to be ſhut, and deſigned to ſet himſelf up for King, was now dragged to juſtice by the people, and executed in a ſhort time. The wiſe, the conſtant Selim, reigned happily, as his brother might have done, had he not been of

a fickle diſpoſition, and ſuffered himſelf, by being *over perſuaded*, to be deluded from the paths of prudence and virtue.

The moral of this ſtory was eaſily underſtood by Harry and Jaſper, and ſo we truſt it will be by our readers.

CHAP.

CHAP. VI.

Reflections on Variety, with a ſuitable Fable.

WHILE theſe things were paſſing, Miſs Eliza was on a viſit at an aunt's houſe, in a neighbouring county, where ſhe had been always beloved, becauſe ſhe really deſerved to be ſo.

On her return, Mrs. Selwyn, enquiring whether ſhe had been happy

in her entertainment there, ſhe anſwered, "That ſhe had, as uſual, though after all ſhe was glad to return to her parents."

In this, my dear, (ſaid her mamma) I certainly ſhall not doubt your ſincerity; yet variety is ſometimes agreeable to young people; and I do not deny that the pleaſure taken in it may be innocent, as it is amuſing, when the deſire for it is not immoderate; but where that is the caſe, it becomes a fault, and ought to be avoided. And taking a paper from her pocket-book, Mrs. Selwyn read the following upon the occaſion.

ONE ſummer morn, when bloom'd each flow'r,
And jaſmines deck'd the pleaſing bower,
A bee flew forth in wanton play,
The golden child of ſmiling May,
Of roving kind, in eager thought,
Already with rich honey fraught;
Reſolv'd to try each plant he meets,
Loſt in a wilderneſs of ſweets,
From flow'r to flow'r he ſwiftly flies,
While brighteſt beams adorn the ſkies.

At length a damaſk roſe he found,
Breathing the mildeſt fragrance round:
A while he was content to reſt
In peace upon her balmy breaſt;
Not long—for near, in rich perfume,
A bright carnation chanc'd to bloom.
Thither, with fond and reſtleſs haſte,
Regardleſs of all elſe he paſs'd:
Thence to a ſun-flow'r took his way,
Which open'd, gaudy, on the day:
Woodbines and jaſmines, all beſide,
The garden's ornament, he try'd:
And laſt, a hollyhock, full blown,
He view'd, with pleaſing fruits that ſhone.

To this the eager wand'rer ſped,
Nor dreaded aught as on he fled.
But whilſt each warbler ſought his neſt,
The ſun declining in the weſt,
For wiles unknowing to prepare,
Too ſoon he found a fatal ſnare;
A ſpider's web, a venom'd loom,
He ſtrikes, and meets—a wretched doom;
To break its threads, ſucceſsleſs tries,
And for inconſtancy he dies.

A con-

" A continual desire of changing (added Mrs. Selwyn) shews at best but a weak mind; it seldom produces success in serious affairs, and in search of pleasure proves not satisfactory, and often dangerous. And indeed, at any rate, all the varieties we find, are most pleasing and agreeable, when they present themselves to us. Pleasures which fly when we pursue them, will come as it were uncal-

uncalled, and it is then that they are enjoyed with the greateſt reliſh."

I have obſerved this, Madam, (ſaid Eliza) and I think I have likewiſe heard or read ſomewhere of a prince, who reſolved to have ſeveral days of pleaſure. I forgot the number. However, thoſe whom he liked beſt, were called together in his palace and fine gardens, where muſic, feaſting, and dancing, and the like were provided. But on the firſt day I think, a wild beaſt broke in, and deſtroyed one of his favourites; another day he loſt a child

that

that he dearly loved; on a third a violent ſtorm rooted up the trees, ſpoiled the gardens; on a fourth, part of his palace was ſet on fire by lightning. At length, having tried to repair ſuch damages as he could, the Prince tried to be gay, and beſides ordered all preſent, on pain of puniſhment, to appear ſo. But this did not ſucceed; for that very order made the thing impoſſible; and in ſpite of all their endeavours, every one looked rather *ſad* than *merry*, whilſt it was plain enough, that to chaſtiſe any of them would make the matter worſe.—So that in the

end

end the prince concluded, as my mamma has now done, and reſolved to take pleaſure juſt where he found it."

CHAP.

CHAP. VII.

The Excellence of Patience.—Story of an Eaſtern Prince.

MISS Selwyn was welcomed home by her brother and Jaſper with great affection and good-will. Both her brother and her couſin knew the ſweetneſs of her temper, and the goodneſs of her heart, and they valued her accordingly.

Harry, indeed, had always been of ſuch a diſpoſition as to ſhew the moſt

moſt tender love and regard for his ſiſter. In their earlieſt days neither of them wrangled or told tales of each other, and their love thus founded, encreaſed with their encreaſing age, ſo that they were ſet as a pattern to others, to the great ſatisfaction of their parents, and of all who wiſhed well to them.

Soon after Miſs Selwyn's return, ſhe was afflicted with a fever, in conſequence of a cold ſhe had caught, and her parents were under great concern for her; at the ſame time that her brother and couſin were ſomewhat ſurpriſed at the great pa-

tience with which ſhe bore pain, ſickneſs, and confinement. As they were diſcourſing on this matter, when ſhe began to recover, Jaſper acknowledged that he believed he ſhould not have endured ſuch an illneſs in the ſame manner. It is better indeed, ſaid his uncle, to own this frankly, than it can be to boaſt of patience you do not poſſeſs. But yet it is a virtue of a profitable nature, which all muſt at one time or another have occaſion for, of which there is an example in the following ſtory.

A cer-

A certain King of the Eaſt had a ſon of a very haſty and paſſionate diſpoſition, which his flatterers called boldneſs, and nobleneſs of mind, being willing to praiſe him even for his faults, in order to gain favour with him and his father, who was too indulgent to him. His temper not being ſufficiently checked, when he was a child,

"Grew with his growth, and ſtrengthen'd with his ſtrength."

inſomuch that he would not bear with any thing, was uneaſy about mere trifles, and indeed was ſeldom pleaſed with whatever paſſed around him.

The King his father intending he ſhould marry a Princeſs, that reigned in a country at a conſiderable diſtance, but with whom he was in ſtrict friendſhip and alliance; the young man ſet off with a number of attendants, in order firſt to pay her a viſit. Part of the way lay over a deſert, which was frequented by the wild Arabian robbers. The Prince thought his force ſtrong enough to reſiſt any attack that might be made, but he was miſtaken in this; for a band of them, conſiſting of double the number he had with him, made ſuch a ſudden and furious aſſault, that they carried their point, robbed

and

and ſtripped the travellers, as well as ſome merchants whom they had taken under their protection. As to the Prince, they paid little regard to him; for they made a prize of his rich cloathing, and all the favour he could get was that of having a few mean rags given him in exchange, juſt ſufficient to ſhelter him from the weather. What was yet worſe, all his papers were loſt, and could not be recovered; and as thoſe of his attendants that were not killed or wounded ſhifted for themſelves, he was left to proceed on his journey alone, which he did, with many diſagreeable reflexions.

He had not gone far before he was overtaken by one of the merchants who had ſhared the ſame lot with him; and as two perſons in ſuch a ſituation might be ſerviceable to each other, condeſcended to make him his companion.

As night drew on, it was agreed to enter the firſt town they ſaw, which they accordingly did; and being under the neceſſity of begging a lodging, were both alike glad to put up with a very mean one.

But the prince checked his own impatience, with the notion that he ſhould

ſhould make himſelf known, when there was no doubt but that he would be treated with proper reſpect. Having taken ſuch reſt as he could, he went to the governor the next morning, and took the merchant with him. But as his papers were loſt, the Prince found it not an eaſy matter to prove his real rank; neither could his companion abſolutely aſſert this, as he was of another country, and, ſpeaking the truth, could affirm no more than that his fellow traveller was a youth whom he had ſeen richly dreſſed, and who, like himſelf had been plundered and ſtripped by robbers. This account

did

did not entirely ſatisfy the governor; he therefore ordered them both to be lodged at the houſe of one of his officers, till by ſome means, he ſhould hear farther of the matter. Morat, the young merchant, was well contented with this order, but Prince Rezin appeared diſpleaſed at his diſappointment. When he came to his new lodgings, though far ſuperior to the apartment where he had ſpent the night before, nothing pleaſed him; he took up his old mood of impatience, and did all in his power to make himſelf, his companion, his hoſt, ſervants, and all around him unhappy. It may be thought how little it became one in his ſituation

(though

(though a Prince) as Morat made free enough to tell him, to behave in ſuch a manner. This however, had no effect. On the contrary, he ſhewed every day more of his reſtleſs diſpoſition, and even took occaſion to abuſe one of the principal domeſtics of the houſe.

On this a complaint was made to the Cadi, Rezin appeared, and only attempted to juſtify himſelf (weakly enough) by talking of his great dignity. As this was not regarded by the magiſtrate, the haughty Prince ſtruck him whilſt on the ſeat of juſtice, for which he was ſent to priſon,

and

and applied in vain to the governor for his releaſe.

In the mean time another perſon appeared, richly habited, and aſſerted that he was the Prince of Bagdad, who produced papers to that purpoſe, and being of a free and affable diſpoſition, was much liked by the people. When he appeared before the governor, he told a probable ſtory, and was eaſily believed, for there did not appear any body to contradict what he ſaid, Morat having departed, after he had received ſome preſents to aſſiſt him on his journey. When Rezin heard the news,

news, he was ſo much afflicted, that he felt double pain in his confinement, and fell ſo ſick from vexation, that his life was in danger.

The tidings of this Prince's misfortune, at length reaching the Court of Bagdad, proper perſons were ſent out to trace what way he had taken, if yet alive, or to know what farther had befallen him. Some of theſe arrived at Bagdad, where they were ſurpriſed with the ſtory that was told them, of two perſons having come thither, each of whom took upon him the title of him they enquired about. They were inform-

ed

ed further that the laſt of theſe had ſet out for Grand Cairo, as he was univerſally believed to be the true Prince. And theſe people were juſt on the point of following to ſuccour and attend him, which they certainly would have been heedleſs enough to do, had not Morat the young merchant returned juſt at the time. He told them of what had happened, and deſcribed Rezin's perſon, on which an order was obtained to viſit him in the place of his confinement, where he was found lying almoſt at the point of death, even the phyſicians allowed to attend him, having for-

forſaken him, chiefly on account of his impatience and diſagreeable behaviour. Matters were now, indeed, altered, yet delays were unavoidable; whilſt, in the mean time, the impoſtor had croſſed that part of the ſea, called the gulph of Perſia, with the train ſent along with him from Baſſorah; and would have been acknowledged by the Indian Princeſs, had it not happened that ſhe found a picture of Rezin, in her deceaſed father's cabinet, that did not appear to be a proper likeneſs of this pretended Prince.

For this reaſon the marriage was put off for a certain time, the limit of which was juſt expired, when the real Prince of Bagdad, being recovered from his ſickneſs, arrived with proper proofs and authorities.

This impoſtor would now have been apprehended, if Rezin had but concealed his arrival for a time; but as he was too eager and haſty ſo to do, the other eſcaped. However, this was the laſt inſtance of his impatience. He preſented himſelf before the Princeſs, when, beſides all other proofs, the picture pointing out the per-

perſon, he was acknowledged; the man who had given himſelf as ſuch, appearing at laſt to be an Arabian, that had taken Rezin's habit and papers, and applied them to this purpoſe.

The Prince of Bagdad's afflictions however, fortunately had this good effect, that they taught him the leſſon of patience, the want of which had thus aggravated all his misfortunes. Thus, inſtructed in the ſchool of experience, he proved, after his marriage with the Princeſs, a wiſe

and gracious ſovereign; whereas, otherwiſe, he would moſt probably have been a whimſical and an arbitrary tyrant.

Variety

Variety cenſured.——An Allegorical Viſion:

IT had always been a cuſtom for Mr. Selwyn's family to keep the ſeaſon of Chriſtmas with decent mirth and hoſpitality, at which time they received the viſits of their friends, and their poorer neighbours were not forgotten.

That ſeaſon was now approaching, and the young folks alſo had their viſitors. Among theſe was Miſs Bridle, a young lady who might

have been much better reſpected and beloved, had ſhe not thought too much of her perſon, and been too proud of her cloaths, both which are certainly great failings.—Miſs Selwyn, though ſo good-natured, that ſhe did not like to find fault, yet could not help ſpeaking of Miſs Bridle's faults, to her papa and mamma, in private, and they were pleaſed to find her diſpleaſed with ſuch behaviour, which there was the greater reaſon to conclude ſhe would not be likely to imitate.

They wiſhed, in ſome meaſure, to give a ſort of check to their viſitor, without

without doing it roughly, and the rather becauſe ſhe was not under their authority.

For this purpoſe, Mr. Selwyn took an opportunity, in the courſe of a converſation, that brought on the ſubject of fables and allegories, to relate one, which he ſaid, having heard in his youth, he had then and ſince admired. It was to the following purport :—

There was a certain lady of high rank, who had a daughter, of whom ſhe was very fond, but who had ſome

ſome failings, to which they were not quite blind, and wiſhed to ſee amended.

While they were conſidering which method it would be beſt to follow, in order to anſwer the purpoſe, they were ſo deſirous to accompliſh; a relation of theirs, who had obſerved their daughter's conduct, took a proper opportunity to relate the following ſtory in her preſence, which he told under the ſimilitude of a dream.

One afternoon (ſaid he) as I was reflecting on the various follies that too

too often engage youth of both ſexes, I fell aſleep, and my fancy preſently repreſented what I thought a ſtrange proſpect, though not at all diſagreeable.

I imagined that I ſaw a number of young people, ſome of whom ſcarcely exceeded the years of childhood, who were all met on a wide plain, that divided at the end into two paths, one of which each perſon there muſt neceſſarily take, but all had their choice of either of theſe, and conſequently all followed their particular fancy. One of theſe paths was plain and

and ſtraight, but not at all adorned, and this was choſen by the graver ſort of the young people. As they advanced, the road grew more pleaſant, and I found they were conducted by an elderly perſon, whoſe name I heard was Prudence, and ſhe led them along with mildneſs and caution. As it ſometimes happened that they came to running ſtreams, and agreeable fountains; whenever any of them were inclined to ſtop and admire themſelves, ſhe always checked them, and pointed to the proper track they ought to keep in view, that led to a large building,

of

of which, however, they had not always the ſame clear proſpect. I learned that this building was called the *Temple of Content*, to which all that followed Prudence were at laſt introduced by Virtue, and crowned with Honour; but thoſe who fell ſhort, or turned aſide, loſt their way in various crooked paths and windings, and never reached the end of their journey.

As to the other path there were many who advanced on it with great haſte, as it appeared to be pleaſant, and theſe were brought forward by a ſturdy

a ſturdy, but aukward guide, called Self-Will, who ſeemed to make it his particular buſineſs to prevent them from any chance of reaching the temple, which, whenever they got a ſight of through the various openings, he always turned them aſide from thence, and directed their eyes to a young gaudy figure, that tripped on before them, in a light and fantaſtical manner; and as ſoon as they came up to her, preſented a flattering ſort of glaſs, which each of them ſeemed highly pleaſed with looking into, and were eaſily perſuaded to follow her. The con-

ſequence was, that this female, whoſe name was Vanity, led them on very quickly to an airy kind of building, that was no other than the Houſe of Folly, which appeared as having no foundation, and turning about with every wind that blew. Here many remained, being entertained by her in the moſt ridiculous manner, while they were perſecuted at the ſame time by Scorn, whoſe finger continually pointed them out to be laughed at and deſpiſed. At the ſame time I ſaw others, that were yet more infatuated, after having ſtaid a while in Folly's houſe, paſſed

on to the dwelling of Vice, where they were attended by *Shame*, *Reproach*, and *Remorſe*, from whence at laſt they were caſt into the abyſs of puniſhment, and remained a ſad example to all who might take Vanity for an Inſtructor, and Folly for a guide.

This tale, ſo ſeaſonably told, had an effect on Miſs Bridle, who was not ſo far gone in her love of vanity as

as to be beyond reformation. Happily for her ſhe took the hint, and though ſhe was not very ready to own her fault, ſhe had the grace to endeavour, and by degrees to bring about an amendment, in which laſt circumſtance, I wiſh all thoſe who have occaſion, may follow her example.

CHAP. VIII.

Adventure with a Hermit.—Travels of Pleaſure, a Fable.

MR. SELWYN being ſenſible that air and exerciſe were requiſite for the health of the body, as well as reading and inſtruction were proper for the mind, had always recommended it to the young folks to walk abroad at convenient times, in the morning and evening,

to

to admire the beauties of the creation, and to relax in a gentle manner from that bent neceſſary for ſtudy or a ſtrict application or ſedentary attention.

Sometimes they all walked out together, but as they grew up it frequently happened that they diſpoſed their little parties different, Harry and Jaſper often accompanying each other, and Miſs Eliza going out attended by her maid Lucy, a ſenſible, good-natured girl, the youngeſt daughter of a farmer, who had many children to provide for, and but

ſlight means for the purpoſe, as he had met with loſſes, and therefore found himſelf in indifferent circumſtances, in the decline of his years. Perhaps we may ſay ſomething more of Lucy hereafter.

For the preſent we ſhall take our young reader along with Harry and Jaſper, who, walking abroad one evening in autumn, went rather further than was uſual with them. The ſun ſet, the moon aroſe, the ſtars glittered; yet they were not now, as once before, apprehenſive of loſing their way; and Jaſper,

who

who had conquered his fears, entertained himſelf with obſerving the ſtarry canopy ſpread over his head, on which he made ſome very pretty obſervations.

" Yes, Jaſper, (ſaid Harry) and ſtill more will you admire theſe heavenly bodies, as you come to be farther informed of their real ſituation." —" Then they are not as they appear (ſaid Jaſper) expreſſing a wiſh to hear further, if his companion could inform him."—Certainly they are not, (replied Harry) and their great diſtance occaſions us not

to

to know them, for what they are, without further inſtruction."— "What (cried Jaſper) can our eyes deceive us?" — "They can (anſwered Harry) and if you recollect even the tricks of ſlight of hand, that we have ſeen at fairs, it may ſufficiently inform us of this, though in a low and vulgar manner. —But couſin, to go on, the ſun, which enlightens us by day, I underſtand is diſtant ſo many millions of miles, and is of ſuch ſize as you could neither think or believe. This moon ſhines only by reflected light, as a looking glaſs, and notwithſtanding

ing ſhe looks ſo big to us, is likely to be beyond expreſſion leſs than the ſmalleſt twinkling ſtars you ſee. For they ſhine with light of their own; but the ſteady ones, which ſeem larger, are leſs than theſe, though bigger than the moon; and ſome believe they have people like us that inhabit them; which is not impoſſible, ſince they are not made of fire, as the fixed twinkling ſtars (whoſe ſituation ſhews them ſo ſmall) muſt be, but are of the ſame nature with our earth, which at a diſtance ſhines likewiſe as the moon we ſpoke of does, that is, with reflected light."

All

All this was matter of wonder to Jaſper, and the more ſo, as his uncle had not ever mentioned the ſubject, nor was it in the line of their ſchool education to give either of them an inſight into matters of this nature. It was by this time agreed to return; when Harry told his couſin, that by going a little out of the way he could ſhew him his inſtructor, in what he knew concerning the ſtars. "This (added he) is but little indeed, compared to his knowledge.—Beſides this, he is good, affable, kind, and though low in ſtation, appears to be perfectly happy. We ſhall ſtay but a very

a very ſhort time, and ſhall return before the hour of ſupper, or of prayers.

Accordingly they turned aſide, down a green lane, near the bottom of which, in a narrow way, on the border of a rivulet, was a ſmall tenement, the owner of which ſtood at the door. He was an elderly man, of a grave, but pleaſing countenance, who invited them to come in, and ſhewed them his humble dwelling, which conſiſted only of two apartments below, one of which ſerved as a book room, having a cloſet

ſet ſufficient to hold a few books; the other, which overlooked the rivulet, and commanded a proſpect wild and pleaſant between the trees, ſerved for a place of prayer, retirement, and meditation. Over theſe was a neat bedchamber; and the hermitage was furniſhed with a ſmall garden, that produced ſome neceſſary vegetables, which, with water from a ſpring, ſerved for the chief of the good man's ſubſiſtance.

There was but little time for diſcourſe, becauſe it was proper for the young gentlemen to depart, which

which they did, ſo as to arrive at home by the time that Harry had mentioned; though at a later hour than was uſual with them on thoſe occaſions.

They informed Mr. Selwyn how they had ſpent their time, and the next day Harry told him ſome particulars relative to the life of this hermit, who had before ſo agreeably entertained him with diſcourſing on the heavenly bodies, as has been before related. It ſeems this recluſe was the ſon of a perſon of ſome fortune, and much indulged by his pa-

rents, who, at their death, left him a ſufficiency for a handſome maintenance. But this he run through by extravagance in his youth, and was reduced to neceſſity. However, a relation of his late mother's, adviſed him, though late, to turn his mind to trade, by whoſe aſſiſtance, he was ſet up in a reputable buſineſs; but ill fortune attended him likewiſe in that purſuit. By imprudently truſting to improper perſons, and by loſſes, he was once more reduced, but having learned leſſons of patience, this laſt misfortune did not affect him ſo heavily as

might have been expected. He made a fair diviſion of all that he remained poſſeſſed of, among his creditors, and refuſed an offer of being ſet up in buſineſs, but accepting of a ſmall preſent, which they made him, withdrew to this ſolitary ſpot. Here he built the ſmall houſe above mentioned, and here, ſpending his time in ſtudy and prayer, and the contemplation of nature, he declared that he firſt taſted of real peace and tranquillity, ſuch as he had never enjoyed when in a ſtate of ſeeming eaſe as well as affluence.

Mrs. Selwyn, who was preſent, was much pleaſed with this little hiſtory, and obſerving that ſhe doubted not of the hermit's happineſs, as the ſolitude was ſuited to his age, circumſtances, and diſpoſition; ſome converſation followed on the ſubject of peace and ſatisfaction of mind, Mrs. Selwyn, at the deſire of Eliza, read the following little poetical piece, for the amuſement of the young people.

PLEASURE.

PLEASURE.

The Travels of Pleaſure.

PLEASURE, a goddeſs young and gay,
And beauteous as the ſmiling May;
Sweet offspring of the pow'rs above,
The pledge and earneſt of their love,
Was ſent from Heav'n, the means to find,
(In mercy fram'd) to bleſs mankind;
And ſure naught elſe could bid ſo fair
To charm the heart, and baniſh care.

And first the lofty roofs she sought,
With gold and sculpture highly wrought,
There for a while she seem'd secure,
And thought her empire would endure;
But vain that thought:—Ambition came,
Pride, and the boundless wish for fame.
Compell'd by these, she quits her sway,
And hastes to other scenes away:
Chac'd from the rich, she seeks the poor,
And knocks at many an humble door.

There

There humble Poverty might dwell,
In ſtraw-built cot or lonely cell;
But Envy oft' and Diſcord roſe,
Envy and Diſcord, Pleaſure's foes.

So once again, ſweet nymph, ſhe flies,
To ſeek more kind and fav'ring ſkies,
And in her way ſhe chanc'd to ſee
The hermit call'd Simplicity.
In manners gentle, born of truth,
Tho' full of days, yet flush'd with youth;
So frail his mother ſtill appear,
Thro' awful Heav'n's eternal year.

With

With him ſhe join'd;—and ev'ry grace,
Adorning theſe, ſhone in their race.
From them firſt ſprung Content, bright maid,
Not in the pomp of wealth array'd,
But ſuch as, conſtant, free, and pure,
Not gold can buy, nor gems procure.
'Tis her's, with native mildneſs bleſt,
To ſoothe the anxious, troubl'd breaſt:
Alike ſhe viſits all who deign
To court her ſmiles, and own her reign;
Or rich, or poor, or high, or low,
Some good ſhe ever can beſtow:

Who

Who ſlight her, purchaſe pain and
care,
And for themſelves a ſcourge pre-
pare.

For perfect *happineſs* 'tis vain
To ſeek, while mortals here remain;
Yet ev'ry bliſs our ſtate can give,
Content prepares us to receive.

CHAP.

CHAP. IX.

Obſervations on Chriſtmas.—Diſpute about a Triſle.—Tale concerning the fatal Effects of Paſſion.

THERE is always ſatisfaction to be found in mirth, when it is natural, and innocent, as was the caſe with that enjoyed by the little company aſſembled at Mr. Selwyn's, and it was expreſſed viſibly on every countenance.

What

"What a happy ſeaſon is Chriſtmas, ſaid Jaſper." And he added, "what a pity that it ſhould come but once a year."

"We have been informed ſufficiently (replied Maſter Selwyn) of the occaſion of this feaſt. Something *more* than merriment is intended by it. But, beſides, we well know there are other feaſts that this muſt give way to, as all muſt ſucceed in their order. If Chriſtmas did not go, you know Eaſter could not come, the ſame of Whitſuntide; but mere infants can tell this, and there-

therefore you muſt excuſe me for obſerving, that I think your obſervation was but a childiſh one; as we grow up, we ſhould endeavour to *improve.*

Jaſper was nettled at the obſervation. "I am no child, Maſter Harry, (cried he) and though rather more than a year younger in age than yourſelf, perhaps I may not be at all younger in underſtanding. But you do not know *me*, becauſe you are like ſome people whom my uncle has ſaid do not *know themſelves.* And

And, take notice that I do not aſk to be excuſed telling you ſo."—

This ſpeech cauſed rather a ſmart reply from Harry, who did not want for ſpirit, and one diſagreeable word provoking another, at length Jaſper ſtruck his couſin, who was ſo good-natured and prudent as not immediately to return the blow. "I am not afraid of *you* Jaſper (ſaid he) but I *am* afraid to do wrong; for though I do not know that I ſaid any thing more than was true, yet, to make all agreeable, I am ſorry if *that* offended you. But truth will

not let me make any further acknowledgement."

This was not ſufficient; for Jaſper inſiſted that his kinſman ſhould aſk his pardon in a more ſubmiſſive manner. He added another blow, which Harry returned; Eliza finding them engaged, and endeavouring in vain to part them, returned, and called Mr. Selwyn, who entering found the offender lying on the ground, his antagoniſt, whoſe ſkill had been too much for him, offering to raiſe him, a favour that he did not chuſe to accept.

This

Harry knocks Jasper down.

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This good gentleman now appeared very angry, which was not uſual with him. He reprimanded them both, and at firſt was the moſt ſevere on Harry, becauſe he was the elder. At length, however, he was informed of the true ſtate of the matter, which the other did not deny. This gave ſomething of a different turn to the affair. It was evident that Jaſper was blameable; yet Mr. Selwyn was ſtill diſpleaſed with both, as being kinſmen, for ſuch a contention. "You ſhould rather have been ready to take each others part, than to diſpute, and

even to fight about trifles. The paſſion of anger is moſt frequently found to be the child of folly, and often defeats even its own purpoſes.

I remember to have heard a ſtory of an old Engliſh Baron, who had a ſon, from whom he formed great expectation. Young Edgar poſſeſſed good talents, great genius, and ſome judgement; but he was of a paſſionate temper, and at times quarrelſome to exceſs, a circumſtance that took much from his good qualities, and rendered him diſagreeable to

 many

many that otherwiſe would have been highly pleaſed with his company and converſation. This youth, at a very early time, expreſſed a deſire of travelling into foreign countries, in which his father did not think proper to thwart him. Therefore he ſet out for the continent, properly provided, and it was not doubted but that he would return much the better for his travels, and he was full of hopes to anſwer ſuch expectations.

On his firſt arrival in Germany, he was much eſteemed and careſſed,

becauſe his behaviour appeared to merit this good treatment. But as it is eaſy to glide along the ſmooth ſtream, ſo it is to proceed on your way, when there is nothing to diſturb or ruffle us. Edgar did not find this always the caſe; in truth it would not have been reaſonable for him to expect it. He knew he had abilities; but he did not ſeem to be aware that he ſhould have rivals, and forgot that he had not been uſed to attend to the leſſons of moderation.

This

This noble youth being introduced to the Emperor's court, was highly flattered with the respect shewn him on account of his country, his birth and appearance. All this was very well, but he ought to have considered that a proper behaviour must be necessary to continue it. It was in this he failed, for it was not long before he displayed his temper abroad as he had done before at home; got into quarrels unbecoming of him, received some wounds that did him no honour, and began to be as much hated as he had ever

ever been reſpected at the Court of the Emperor.

He had a ſervant named Edmund, that had always been faithful to him, one who was honeſt, honourable, and deſcended of a good family; yet ſuch was this forward temper of Edgar, that whenever any thing vexed or perplexed him, he conſtantly inſulted, and ſometimes beat this unhappy man. And once he went ſo far as to hurt him dangerouſly in the courſe of an undeſerved chaſtiſement. It is true this domeſtic could have left him, or made

made a regular complaint, but he ſeemed willing to bear, to the uttermoſt. However, as the proverb ſays, "*Ill uſage* may cauſe a dog to hate his maſter"—Edmund, on recovering from his illneſs, thought himſelf in ſome meaſure made amends for his ſufferings, when he was told that the young nobleman was ſorry he had proceeded ſo far.—"If Lord Edgar repents after all, and if he can think me his friend, as well as his ſervant, (ſaid he) I ſhall be ſatisfied."

But

But he ſoon found that he had been too haſty in ſuppoſing there was ſuch a favourable alteration. His maſter returned to his angry diſpoſition with returning health, and ſeemed as if he had been reſolved to try the patience of all about him; more eſpecially of thoſe that Heaven had placed in a dependent ſtation.

It happened that one day when Edgar choſe to divert himſelf with ſhooting, he ordered Edmund to attend him, and went out in a very good temper in the morning; but not

not meeting with ſuch ſucceſs as he wiſhed and expected, he grew ill-humoured, and Edmund, as uſual, was doomed to feel the ill effects of his unreaſonable paſſion. Vexed as the latter was, and conſcious of his own good behaviour, he ventured to put the young Lord in mind of his unworthy conduct, obſerving, that he was his fellow-creature, poſſeſſed of principles of honour, and a faithful heart; and added, that had e been revengeful, opportunities might have been found to retaliate injuries received. "Even now my Lord, added he, are we not on a level?—

I ſee

I ſee your deſign to inſult me. By your own order, I have fire-arms as well as you, and youth and ſpirit fully equal to your own; I may ſay it without any ſort of diſparagement to your Lordſhip; but—"Do you challenge me? (cried Edgar) or dare you think of lifting your hand againſt your maſter."—"Be patient, Sir, replied Edmund, and hear me out; I am not a coward, yet I meant no challenge; all I wiſhed was to ſet matters in a true light between us; and "Tis falſe," (Edgar exclaimed) and loading his gun levelled it at

Edmund,

Edmund, who put on ſelf-defence, drew a piſtol, but as it plainly appeared without any other deſign than that of preventing his Lord's raſhneſs. He might have fired inſtantly; he did not. But the impetuous young nobleman gave fire immediately. He was too much blinded by paſſion to take a proper aim. He forgot the piece had been already loaded; and, in conſequence, without hurting Edmund it burſt in his hand, and ſhattered his arm moſt dreadfully. The ſervant, faithful to the laſt, came up, gave all the aid in his power, and led him to the

neareſt village, in order to get aſſiſtance. A ſurgeon was procured; Edgar's arm was cut off; yet even this did not anſwer the end; for he died of the conſequences, at the age of 22, in a foreign country, falling a victim to his own folly, and a ſad example of ungoverned paſſion.

CHAP. X.

Adventure in a Morning's Walk.— Story of an unfortunate Person, and other Particulars.

IT has been already obſerved that Miſs Eliza ſometimes went abroad, attended by her maid Lucy, in whom her parents could place proper confidence, being as ſerious and prudent as many a much older ſervant.

One morning as they were taking a walk, Miſs Selwyn being led into a track different from that which ſhe was generally uſed to, being pleaſed with the variety, a ſudden ſhower falling, they came to a cottage, at the door of which ſtood a pretty young woman, dreſſed in a clean, but very homely manner, who invited them to walk in, and take ſhelter from the rain. They accepted the offer, and when they entered, found an old woman ſitting in an armed chair, who endeavoured to riſe to receive them. But the young lady, perceiving that ſhe was ill,

and

and infirm, would not allow her ſo to do. It was plain to obſerve that the miſtreſs of this poor mud-built tenement had been bred to good manners, and indeed it was natural to conclude, from their behaviour, that they had ſeen better days; whilſt every appearance of that poverty, which they ſeemed in vain endeavouring to conceal, ſufficiently denoted their preſent real ſituation.

Eliza being anxious to know ſomething further concerning them, gave hints in a manner that proved her fear of offending; on which the

young woman, whoſe name was Maria, gave her a ſhort hiſtory of their misfortunes.

She informed them that her mother had been left a widow, in good circumſtances, while ſhe was but a child; but finding herſelf unable to carry on the extenſive buſineſs of her late huſband, had left it with prudence, as ſhe thought, in time, and put the chief part of her money into the hands of a banker, and one whom ſhe ſuppoſed her friend. But the banker broke, and this was loſt; on which account ſhe drew the little

yet remaining, that was preſerved for her by a relation, and rented a very ſmall farm, conſiſting of a few acres; but bad crops, and other accidents obliged her to give that up, and retire with what few goods ſhe had to a ſtill ſmaller tenement, which being conſumed by fire ſhe loſt near the whole of her little property, and was obliged to put up with the cottage they now inhabited, which was built in its room. Even here misfortune followed her, for three ſheep, from a common, and a cow died, that was greatly ſerviceable for her ſubſiſtence, and that of her daughter.

daughter. The good, but unhappy woman, was ſoon after afflicted with a ſevere fit of illneſs, from which, though not yet recovered, ſhe was threatened to be turned out of doors, and the little ſhe had to be ſeized, becauſe ſhe was not able to pay a ſmall matter of rent, when ſhe found herſelf in want of proper aſſiſtance, and ſcarcely ſupplied with common neceſſaries.

This melancholy tale much affected Miſs Selwyn, who privately begged Maria to accept what money ſhe had about her; and the good-natured Lucy ſhed tears on the occaſion.

They

" They did not fail to inform Mr. and Mrs. Selwyn, who waited breakfaſt for them, of this adventure, and Lucy, now confeſſed that ſhe had ſeen Maria before, whom ſhe conceived to be diſtreſſed; but all ſhe could learn was, that the young woman had a ſick mother that was but in indifferent circumſtances.

" I commend your compaſſion, Eliza, ſaid her Father, for theſe unfortunate people; perhaps we ſhall be able to do more than pity them. I know Sir John Worthland, on whoſe eſtate I find by your deſcription

tion their cottage ſtands. I ſhall apply to him, and hope I ſhall prevail on him not to diſtreſs them.—At the worſt, I thank Heaven, it is in my power to give them ſome aſſiſtance. And I would have you underſtand that the great diſpoſer of all things is often pleaſed to ſuccour the good even when they leaſt expect it; attend to one inſtance of this nature which I have read in hiſtory.

"There lived a woman in Bohemia whilſt it was a kingdom of itſelf, who from good circumſtances had fallen to decay, and ſeemed to be perpetually unfortunate; but ſhe

had

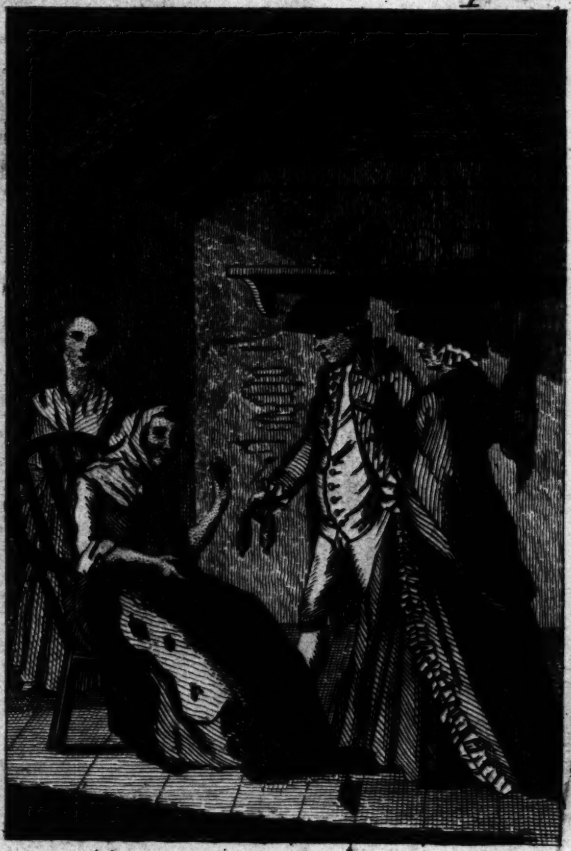
had a couſin that had been bred up with her in early youth that appeared to be always fortunate. He had ſucceeded in all his undertakings, till at length he was taken notice of by a Nobleman, who from the ſtation of an upper ſervant, raiſed him to be his ſecretary. When he was thus promoted, and grew very rich, he took no notice of this poor woman, who in the vexation of her heart, repined, that one who was ſo unworthy, ſhould be ſo ſucceſsful. You ſhould obſerve my good friend (ſaid a Tradeſman, who, though not in very good circumſtances, ſometimes

ſometimes relieved her) that though you are now reduced to beggary, you are yet alive; till death, none can be ſaid to have been completely unhappy, or completely bleſt. She little regarded this obſervation, and continually deplored her hard fate. But ſhe was one day ſurpriſed at being accoſted by a ſervant in a rich livery who, after enquiring her name, aſked whether ſhe were not the Kinſwoman of a certain Nobleman's Secretary? Being told that ſhe was, he informed her that her couſin was accuſed, found guilty of treaſon, and condemned to die. You are happy,

(added he) that you have not had any connection with him. It turned out that she was still happier, for the secretary and master, both suffered for their crimes. The king having heard of this woman's misery, caused her to be sought out, and gave her all her late kinsman's wealth and possessions.—She then confessed the truth of the tradesman's observation, that till death, none could be called entirely miserable or completely blest."

The next day both Mr. and Mrs. Selwyn went privately, to visit Maria and her Mother, the latter of whom,

whom, they both recollected to have known before her misfortunes; though ſince they had not ſeen her, becauſe ſhe had hidden herſelf from all her old acquaintances. As they now knew the particulars of her ſituation, Sir John Worthland was applied to, who readily forgave the rent due, and alſo removed her into a more comfortable dwelling. Mr. Selwyn, after making her an agreeable preſent in money, bought her a cow or two and ſome ſheep, to ſtock a little farm to repair her loſs; and Mrs. Selwyn recommended Maria to the place of an upper ſervant, in



M.r & M.rs Selwin, relieving the Sick Woman in distress.

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in the family of a lady of quality; whilſt Eliza, and the kind Lucy rejoiced at having been the inſtruments of doing good to the deſerving.

CHAPTER THE LAST,

In which the Hiſtory takes leave of Mr. Selwyn and his Family.— Concluſion.

EVERY day ſhewed the propriety of the education of theſe young people, who conſtantly gave tokens in youth of what they would be when arrived at maturer years. As for Harry not a fable, a hiſtory, or any maxim of inſtruction, appeared to be miſapplied with him.

His

His ſiſter Eliza alſo well rewarded the care that had been beſtowed on her; and Jaſper, whoſe temper promiſed leaſt, was by degrees moulded into ſuch a frame of mind as rendered him agreeable to others, whilſt it proved advantageous to himſelf. Having loſt his heedleſsneſs, and a diſpoſition to paſſion and ſelf-will, he grew both prudent and tractable. Being put apprentice to a wholeſale dealer, at his uncle's expence, he ſucceeded, and became in time a reputable merchant.

Harry and Eliza not only ſhared the fortune of their parents, but ſo much

much recommended themselves to a noble, though distant branch of the same family, that the Baron left each of them a portion of his estate, not annexed to the title. The young lady married to advantage, and both lived in their old neighbourhood, patterns of charity to the poor, and of good-will and benevolence to every one. Lucy lived and died happy in the service of her young mistress.

Thus,

Thus, Reader, ends our little Hiſtory, in the courſe of which we have endeavoured to lead you as it were by the hand, from ſmaller to larger improvements, ſtill obſervant to proportion the means to the end. Whatever amuſement ariſes in the courſe of the whole, is connected with the deſign, and thoſe that ſeek

the

the one are heartily welcome to the other. For the preſent we drop the curtain, and bid all heartily fare-well,

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